

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 8, 13, 16, 24, 29, and 32-33 and claims 1-7, 9-12, 15, 17-23, 25-28 and 31 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 8, 13-14, 16, 24, 29-30 and 32-33 are pending in the application.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the conditional allowance of claims 8, 13-14, 16, 24, 29-30 and 32. Claim 33 has been amended to depend from conditionally allowed claim 8.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

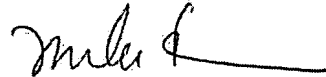
The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-12, 15, 17, 19-22, 25-28, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ling (5,216,692) in view of Ariyoshi (US 2002/0021682). The Examiner also rejected claims 7 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ling in view of Ariyoshi and in further view of Munks (US 6,353,623). The Applicant has canceled claims 1-7, 9-12, 15, 17, 19-22, 25-28 and 31 rendering the rejections moot. Claim 33 was amended to depend from amended claim 8. Claim 18 was also canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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